

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 147830
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 AF-10 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 IO-13 /078 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:VGRAY:BJR
APPROVED BY EUR:JAMES E. GOODBY
EUR/CE:WMWOESSNER
EUR/P:WJGEHRON

-----015687 100356Z /21

P R 100200Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, GE, US

SUBJECT:VISIT OF GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER: PRESS AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS

1. FISCHER'S JUNE 6 VISIT, WHICH INCLUDED A HALF-HOUR
SPEECH BEFORE THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, AN IMPROMPTU Q AND
A SESSION IN THE DEPARTMENT LOBBY FOLLOWING HIS MEETING
WITH THE SECRETARY, AND A GDR TV INTERVIEW ON THE CAPITOL
STEPS FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE, ATTRACTED SCANT ATTENTION IN THE U.S.
MEDIA WITH MOST COVERAGE BEING LIMITED TO HIS REMARKS ON
AFRICA. ON THAT SUBJECT, HE CHALLENGED U.S. STATEMENTS
ABOUT CUBAN AND POSSIBLE GDR MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN
AFRICA AND PROBABLY DAMAGED HIS CREDIBILITY BY CLAIMING
THAT THERE ARE NO CUBAN TROOPS ON THE CONTINENT. IN A
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RELATED DEVELOPMENT, NEWSWEEK, WE UNDERSTAND, IS CONSIDER-
ING A STORY ON THE "GDR'S AFRIKA KORPS."

2. FISCHER'S SPEECH AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, WHICH WAS
CARRIED LIVE BY PUBLIC RADIO AND FILMED BY GDR TV, WAS
UNEXCEPTIONAL FOR THE MOST PART. FISCHER DID, HOWEVER,
DIRECTLY CHALLENGE USG STATEMENTS ABOUT GDR ACTIVITIES IN

AFRICA, TERMING THEM "HIGHLY NONSENSICAL CHARGES ABOUT AN ALLEGED DEPLOYMENT OF WHOLE ARMIES OF THE GDR IN AFRICA." IN POSSIBLE ANTICIPATION OF QUESTIONS TO COME, HE ALSO STATED THAT THE GDR HAD PAID ITS "REPARATIONS AS STIPULATED." FINALLY, HE USED THE OCCASION TO ASSERT AGAIN A GDR VOICE IN BERLIN MATTERS. REFERRING TO THE "QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON WEST BERLIN," HE WARNED THAT ,ONLY IF ALL THOSE CONCERNED ABIDE BY IT IN LETTER AND SPIRIT CAN IT UNFOLD ITS INFLUENCE PROMOTING DETENTE."

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS CLUB AUDIENCE COVERED CULTURE, TRADE, AFRICA, GDR-FRG RELATIONS, AND CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS. THE FIRST QUESTION, OCCASIONED BY CONTACTS LAST WEEK BETWEEN CULTURE MINISTER HOFFMANN AND ROGER STEVENS OF THE KENNEDY CENTER, CONCERNED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE DRESDEN OPERA'S PERFORMING AT THE CENTER--A POSSIBILITY WHICH FISCHER TERMED REAL. FISCHER USED THE OPPORTUNITY THUS PROVIDED TO PLUG A CULTURAL AGREEMENT, A SUBJECT HE SAID HE HAD RAISED WITH THE SECRETARY. ON TRADE, A CONFUSED QUESTION ON WHETHER THE GDR WOULD WELCOME A TRADE AGREEMENT LIKE THOSE THE ROMANIANS AND HUNGARIANS HAVE OR ARE NEGOTIATING, BROUGHT A HEARTY "YES" FROM FISCHER AND A STRING OF FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS DIRECTED AT THE DEPARTMENT BY REPORTERS WHO HAD JUMPED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE GDR, TOO, WAS CLOSE TO MFN. AFRICA AGAIN DOMINATED THE QUESTIONING, WITH FISCHER AGAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STEADFASTLY DENYING ANY INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA OTHER THAN IN THE ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL AREAS AND CLAIMING TO AN INCREDULOUS AUDIENCE THAT HE HAD "NO INFORMATION THAT THERE ARE REGULAR CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA.; THE PURPOSE OF DEFENSE MINISTER HOFFMANN'S VISIT TO AFRICA, HE CONTENTED, WAS THE SAME AS THAT OF HIS (FISCHER'S) VISIT TO WASHINGTON. ASKED ABOUT GERMAN UNIFICATION, HE REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY, ALLUDING TO THE SAME ANALOGY USED ELSEWHERE DURING THE DAY, NAMELY THAT MIXING WATER AND FIRE PRODUCES DANGEROUS HOT STEAM. WITH REGARD TO THE WALL, FISCHER PREFACED HIS REMARKS WITH REMINDERS THAT INSECURE BORDERS HAD OFTEN BEEN THE CAUSE OF WAR IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND THAT ,MISUSE OF THE GDR'S OPEN BORDER" HAD REACHED A 'CRITICAL STAGE" JUST PRIOR TO AUGUST 1961. HE THEN SHIFTED TO A DISCUSSION OF THE WORK OF GDR-FRG BORDER COMMISSION (WHICH, OF COURSE, HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BERLIN), PROBABLY TRYING TO SUGGEST THEREBY THAT THE FRG AGREES NOT ONLY WITH THE DEMARCATION BUT ALSO WITH THE CHARACTER OF ITS OF ITS BORDER WITH THE GDR. ASKED ABOUT FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN THE GDR,FISCHER EXPRESSED MOCK ANNOYANCE THAT HE HAD TO LISTEN TO RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMING ON STATE RADIO SATURDAY MORNINGS.

4. DURING Q AND A SESSION IN DEPARTMENT LOBBY FOLLOWING
HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, FISCHER CLAIMED THAT
ALLEGATION THAT GDR AND CUBA WERE INVOLVED IN SHABA

INVASION WAS "BASED ON WRONG INFORMATION" AND "WILL NOT BE
TRUE, EVEN IF IT IS REPEATED A THOUSAND TIMES." HE WENT
ON TO SAY: "WHAT THE UNITED STATES SAYS IS ONE THING.
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FAR AS I KNOW THERE ARE NO CUBAN FORCES IN ETHIOPIA."
THESE STATEMENTS WERE FEATURED IN REUTERS AND AP TICKER
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GROUND) LASTED ABOUT FIVE MINUTES. WHILE DEPARTMENT WAS
NOT PRIVY TO INTERVIEW, WE ASSUME IT ECHOED POSITIVE LINE
CHARACTERISTIC OF NEUES DEUSTCHLAND COVERAGE. VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/RPM:RVPERINA
APPROVED BY: EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR
EUR/CE:VGRAY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 147830 SENT ACTION BERLIN INFO BONN,
USBERLIN 10 JUN 78

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 147830

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE147830
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: VGRAY:BJR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780242-0860
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780673/aaaacklc.tel
Line Count: 284
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 99aabf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2404067
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER: PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, GC, US, (FISCHER, OSKAR)
To: BERLIN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/99aabf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014